Mechanism to keep watch on exports

3223. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a mechanism to keep a close watch on exports to the various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Government in the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the country's external trade and related matters such as export promotion measures, commercial relations with other countries, development and regulation of export oriented industries and commodities and state trading. The Territorial and Commodity Divisions within the Ministry monitor the export performance as a continuous process. The Ministry formulates and implements policies in the sphere of foreign trade, reflected in Export-Import Policy of the country. With a view to accelerating the country's transition to a globally oriented economy, the Ministry is stimulating India's export and facilitating the import of production-inputs required for sustaining increased industrial growth and export growth. The Exim Policy for the period 1997-2002 has also recently been announced.

Import of tea from India by various countries

3224. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries which are importing tea from India;

(b) whether Poland and some other countries propose to step up for tea import;

(c) if so, the details of orders placed by different countries to import Indian tea;

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) the estimated quantum of tea proposed to be exported to those countries during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Indian tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russia and CIS countries, U.K. Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, Arab Republic of Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia etc.

(b) to (d) Overall imports of tea by various importing countries depend upon their requirements and contracts for imports are entered into by the importing companies/organisations in different countries with their counterpart Indian exporters, details of which would be available only with the individual buyers/sellers. However, tea Board is in constant touch with various importing countries including Poland to promote import of Indian tea.

(e) The target proposed by the Tea Board for export of tea in the terminal year of 9th Plan viz 2001-2002 is 265 million kg.

Import of Gold Under EM Scheme

3225. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported by MMTC, under the EM Scheme since 1988;

(b) the details of the quantity of gold supplied to each exporter during that period;

(c) the number of exporters complied

with the export obligations; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the exporters who diverted the loaned gold in the domestic market and earned lot of money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of gold imported by MMTC under EXIM Policy Scheme since 1988 up to 15.11.96 is 78400 kgs.

(b) The total gold supplied to the jewellery exporters since 1988-89 up to 15.11.96 is as follows

Year	Gold issued (qty. in kgs.) EOU/EPZ*	DTA* Total
1988-89	134	—	134
1989-90	680	—	680
1990-91	1082	—	1082
1991-92	2466	—	2466
1992-93	4237	4139	8376
1993-94	4324	9302	13626
1994-95	5789	12131	17920
1995-96	4923	15298	20221
1996-97 (as on 15.11.96)	2408	10442	12850
Total	26043	51312	77355

*DTA : Domestic Tariff Area
*EOU/EPZ : Export Orineted Unit/Export processing Zone

(c) Nineteen exporters in EOUs/EPZs and four exporters in Domestic Trafic Area have defaulted under the schemes as reported by MMTC.

(d) 23 cases of alleged irregularities have been referred by MMTC to various investigating agencies including CBI, DRI, Enforcement Directorate and DGFT for investigation and necessary action.

Rice Export Policy

3226. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy for the export of rice from India and the rationale thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that export of non-basmati rice has increased substantially during the recent years;

(c) the quantities, values and per unit value of export, separately of basmati non-basmati rice 1992-93, year-wise; and

(d) to what extent increased export of non-basmati rice has affected the common man, by way of increase in its prices and domestic non-availability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of rice both Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice are allowed freely without any quantitative and price restrictions. However, exports of Basmati Rice are subject to registration with Agricultural